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Indication of Herbal Medicine 'Bojungikgi-tang': A Systematic Review of Randomized Controlled Trials



Somi Oh¹, Seong-Gyu Ko¹,
Yong-Cheol Shin¹, Bo-Hyoung Jang¹,
Sunju Park², Chunhoo Cheon¹, Soobin Jang¹,
Ching-Wen Huang¹, Yui Sasaki¹

¹ Kyung Hee University

² Daejeon University

Purpose: This study is to conduct systematic review of randomized controlled trial using herbal medicine 'Bojungikgi-tang' and classify the indication of Bojungikgi-tang by ICD-10.

Methods: We searched RCTs reporting effect of Bojungikgi-tang. Literatures were searched from the electronic databases including PubMed, EMBASE, Cochrane CENTRAL, CNKI, CiNii, CINAHL, 5 Korean medical databases and 2 databases specialized in Korean medicine. There was no limitation of language and publication year. The risk of bias was evaluated by the 'Risk of Bias' tool of Cochrane group. Literatures were descriptively analyzed. The indications of Bojungikgi-tang in RCT were classified by ICD-10.

Results: From the 1,883 of relevant literatures, 31 were included. 2,440 participants were involved in RCT using Bojungikgi-tang. The average administration period of Bojungikgi-tang was 56±48.45 days. In clinical trials, Bojungikgi-tang is mainly used as three indications; a tumor-related disease, loss of appetite and fatigue, and immune-related diseases. Especially, Bojungikgi-tang is mostly used in cancer related disease (24%).

Conclusion: This study classified various indications of Bojungikgi-tang in clinical trials and identified multi target effect of Bojungikgi-tang. This review would contribute to provide useful information in the clinical use of Bojungikgi-tang.

Contact: Somi Oh, veroni5ca@naver.com

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Acupuncture for Functional Constipation: an Ongoing Randomized, Patient-Assessor Blinded, Controlled Pilot Clinical Trial Protocol



Joo-Hee Kim, Sung Phil Kim, Jeong Eun Kim,
Kyung Min Shin, Hyo-Ju Park, Ae-Ran Kim,
So-Young Jung, Sunmi Choi

KIOM

Purpose: Constipation is one of the most common gastrointestinal conditions, with prevalence rates reported to be 9.2% in South Korea. While constipation is potentially caused by endocrine, metabolic, or neurological disorders or several other organic diseases such as intestinal tumor occlusion or inflammation, most cases are thought to be idiopathic. Although the condition can be intermittent or

mild in many cases, a complete cure is difficult because of its chronic nature. The aim of this study is to evaluate feasibility for massive clinical research and make basic analysis of efficacy and safety of acupuncture on functional constipation.

Methods: We will include patients aged 19 to 65 years old satisfying Rome III criteria for functional constipation. 30 participants will be recruited, and randomly allocated into two groups. The real and sham acupuncture group participants will receive real and sham acupuncture treatments respectively, three times weekly for a total of 12 sessions over four weeks. After 4 weeks' treatment, acupuncture and sham acupuncture groups were followed up at 2 and 4 weeks. The primary outcome is defecation frequencies in a week, and the secondary outcomes are spontaneous complete bowel movement, Bristol stool scale, Constipation Assessment Scale, and Adverse events. Safety will be assessed at every visit.

Results: This protocol was registered at CRIS registry (KCT0000926). Currently, 20 participants were enrolled in the study and the remaining participants' recruiting is in progress. Data will be analyzed before (baseline) and after treatment, and at 2-week/4-week of f/u after the end of treatment according to the method described in the protocol.

Conclusion: The results of the trial will provide basis for the efficacy and safety of acupuncture for functional constipation.

Contact: Joo-Hee Kim, jhkim714@kiom.re.kr

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The association of lower abdominal coldness with infertility factors by assessing digital infrared thermal imaging pattern in infertile women



Jeong-Eun Yoo, Sae-Byul Jang, Eun-Hye Jung

Dunsan Korean Medicine Hospital of Daejeon
university

Purpose: In Korean traditional medicine, lower abdominal coldness is known to induce women infertility both in literature and clinical practice. Digital infrared thermography has been in use in medical diagnostics, and it is an effective and objective tool for evaluating the subjective sense of coldness. The purpose of this study is to investigate the association of lower abdominal coldness with infertility factors by assessing digital infrared thermal imaging (DITI) pattern to elucidate related pathologies.

Methods: The study involved 38 female patients of age 20-38 years that had diagnosed of infertility. All the subjects in this population were screened for upper and lower body using DITI. Based on the image patterns, two different practitioners independently classified the subjects into two groups, lower abdominal coldness and normal. All those showing lower abdominal coldness have been analyzed with variables of infertility factors, ovulation, uterine, tubal or peritoneal, and unknown. Statistical analysis was performed by adopting descriptive and inferential tests.